GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:249
ANSWERED ON:23.11.2006
PROTECTION TO HERITAGE MONUMENTS
Rao Shri Kavuru Samba Siva

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the heritage monuments and sites in Rajasthan and other States, are threatened by mining and other illegal activities;

(b) If so, the steps taken to protect these sites; and

(c) If so, the outcome thereof ?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI)

(a) No threat is reported to the centrally protected heritage monuments and sites in Rajasthan and other States due to mining or other illegal activities.

(b)&(c) Statutory provisions exist in the Ancient Monuments & Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 and Rules framed thereunder banning mining operation and construction near the protected monuments and for prescribing punishments for violation of these statutory provisions.Powers are vested with the Director General, Archaeological Survey of India and with Superintending Archaeologist for removal of encroachments from the protected places. An area upto 100 metres from the protected limits of centrally protected monuments is declared as a prohibited area where all constructions and mining activities are banned. Another 200 metres beyond this has been declared as regulated area where construction/mining activity is permitted only in accordance with the terms and conditions of the licence issued by the Director General, Archaeological Survey of India.Archaeological Survey of India is constantly in touch with the State Government administrations for removal of encroachments and prevention of other illegal activities in protected monuments/sites.